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ex-senator Foraker did, the contribution would have ranked higher for the historian. But withal it is a useful and informing work.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON

*Reminiscences of a war-time statesman and diplomat, 1830-1915.* By Frederick W. Seward, assistant secretary of state, administration of Lincoln, Johnson, and Hayes. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1916. 489 pages. \$3.50 net)

The work covers in a scattering way about seventy-five years from the earliest recollections of the writer to 1909. It is a mixture of reminiscences, history, diary, and letters, and frequently the narrative is based on all of these. There are no chapters, but the book is divided into more than a hundred short sections or topics under three main divisions: Before the war; During the war; After the war. It cannot be said that Mr. Seward's compilation is of great historical value, yet at times it is very interesting and frequently it affords illuminating sidelights on men, measures, and events. Some of the more important or more interesting parts are those relating to the author's boyhood, recollections of men and conditions in Albany and Washington in the late thirties and the forties, and his accounts of old-fashioned college life and of the administration of an antebellum newspaper. There are also reminiscences of visiting personages and prominent politicians and statesmen, and most worth while of all, there is some inside information as to the conduct of foreign affairs by William Henry Seward, who is the hero of the book. Special mention may be made of the author's explanation (p. 149) of his father's "Thoughts for the president's consideration," as merely a basis for future discussion, and of the development of Seward's expansion policy. In connection with the latter topic the accounts of travels in the West Indies, Mexico, and Alaska are interesting and significant. Probably the book would have been a better one had it told more of Frederick William Seward's activities and less of William Henry Seward's.

WALTER L. FLEMING

*A soldier-doctor of our army, James P. Kimball, late colonel and assistant surgeon-general, U. S. army.* By Maria Brace Kimball. With an introduction by Major-General William C. Gorgas. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin company, 1917. 192 p. \$1.50 net)

Issued just before the declaration of war with Germany, this readable little volume forms a timely essay in practical patriotism. Basing her narrative mainly upon her husband's letters and diaries, Mrs. Kimball gives an interesting picture of the quiet self-sacrificing devotion of the best type of soldier-doctor.